

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 24–27 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 4–9 of U.S. Patent 6,191,397.

Amendments

Applicants have amended claims 25–27 to recite that each depends from claim 24. This amendment is made without regard to any prior art reference and should not be construed as a disclaimer of scope to which Applicants are entitled, either through the literal scope of the claims or under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

Terminal Disclaimer

Concurrently with this Reply to Office Action, Applicants submit a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent 6,191,397. In view of the Terminal Disclaimer, which obviates the double patenting rejection, Applicants kindly request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 24–27 and their timely allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

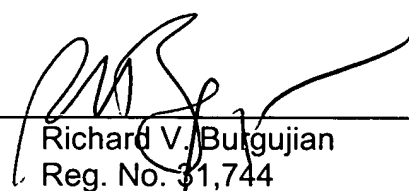
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: July 2, 2004

By: _____


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